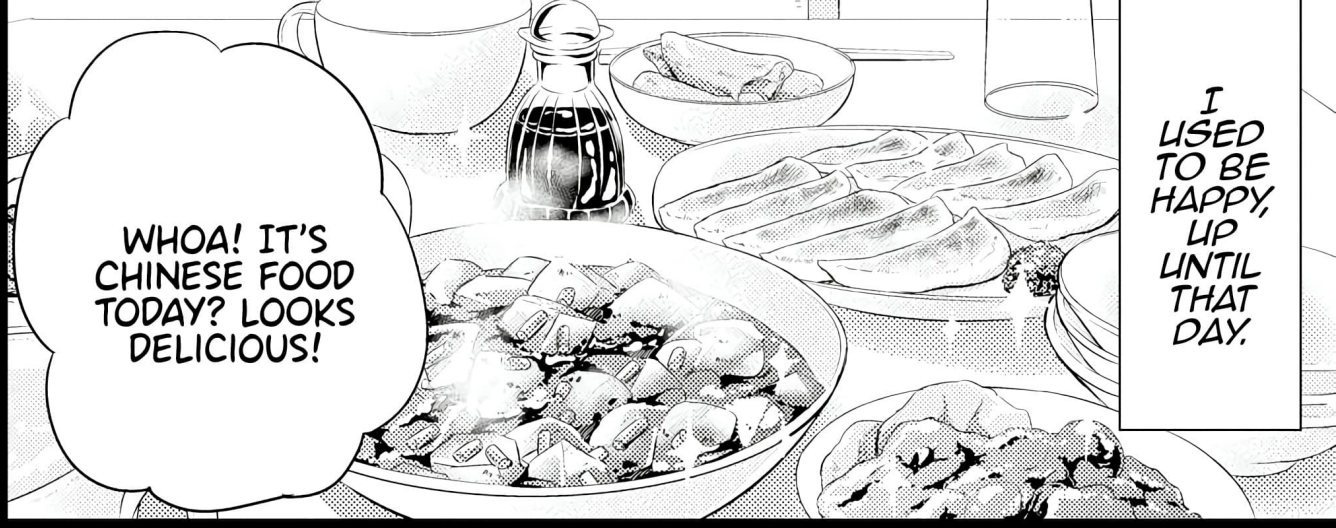
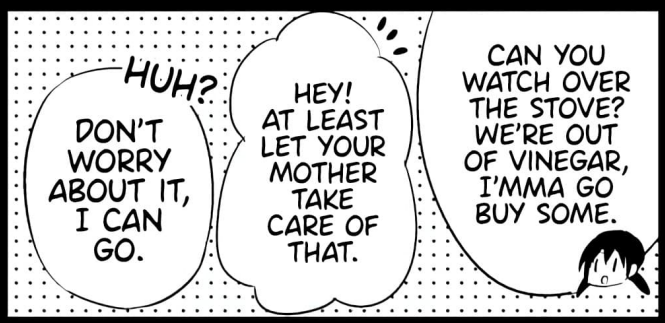

I USED TO BE HAPPY, UP UNTIL THAT DAY.
WHOA! IT'S CHINESE FOOD TODAY? LOOKS DELICIOUS!

YOUR FOOD ALWAYS TURNS OUT SO GOOD.
YOUR DAD AND I ARE LUCKY TO HAVE THE BEST DAUGHTER IN THE WORLD!
C'MON, YOU'RE EXAGGE-RATING.

WELCOME BACK, MOM. I BORROWED YOUR COOK-BOOK.
HUH...I DO REMEMBER BUYING ONE OF THOSE.


CAN YOU WATCH OVER THE STOVE? WE'RE OUT OF VINEGAR, I'MMA GO BUY SOME.
HEY! AT LEAST LET YOUR MOTHER TAKE CARE OF THAT.
HUH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I CAN GO.

AFTER THAT, MOM LEFT BUT NEVER RETURNED.
COME ON, I'LL ALSO GET YOU SOME OF THOSE SWEETS YOU AND YOUR DAD LIKE. SO, LET ME AT LEAST DO THAT.

SHE WAS INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT AND DIED...

WE HAVE TO BE STRONG AND KEEP LIVING. IT'S WHAT SHE WOULD'VE WANTED.

I'M SURE SHE'S WATCHING OVER US FROM UP ABOVE.

LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST.

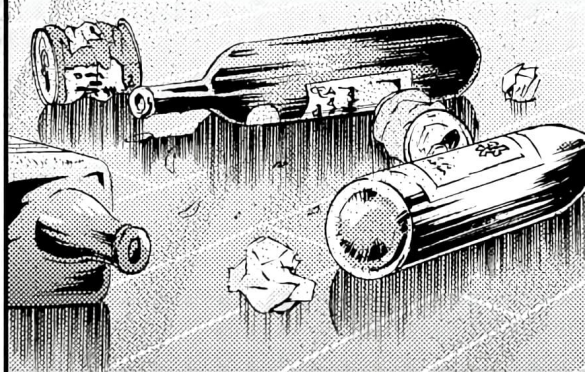
I THINK THAT WHILE HE WAS SAYING THAT...

HE WAS ALSO TRYING TO CONVINCE HIMSELF.

IF I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING THAT NIGHT...

MONTHS AFTER, THE COMPANY MY DAD WORKED FOR WENT BANKRUPT.

HE LOST CONTROL AND DROWNED HIMSELF IN ALCOHOL AND DEBT.



THREE YEARS LATER, SINCE LAST WEEK, HE STOPPED COMING HOME.

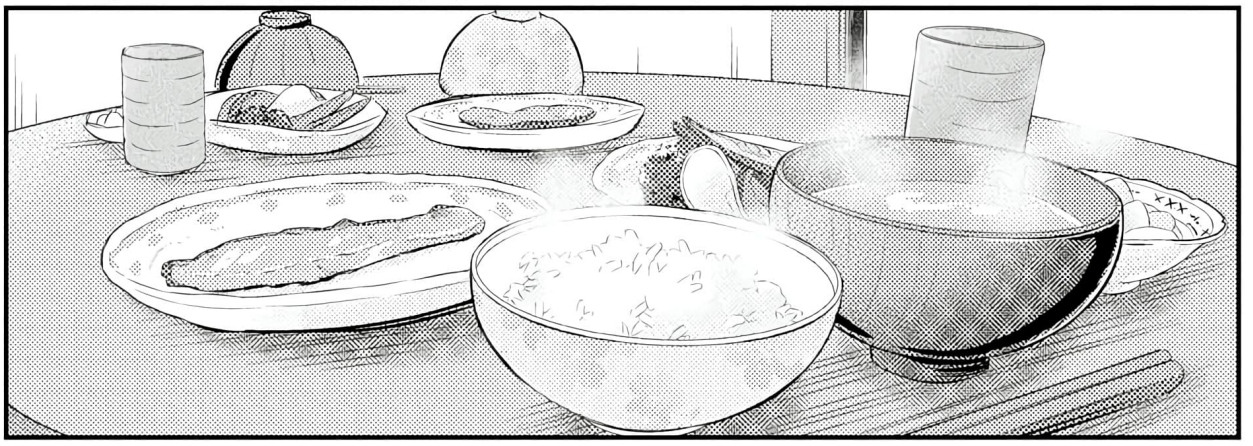
MEOW

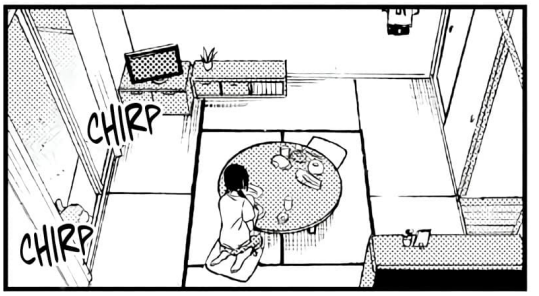
MEOW

AT LEAST WITH YOU, THINGS WILL BE LESS GLOOMY.

SLIDE

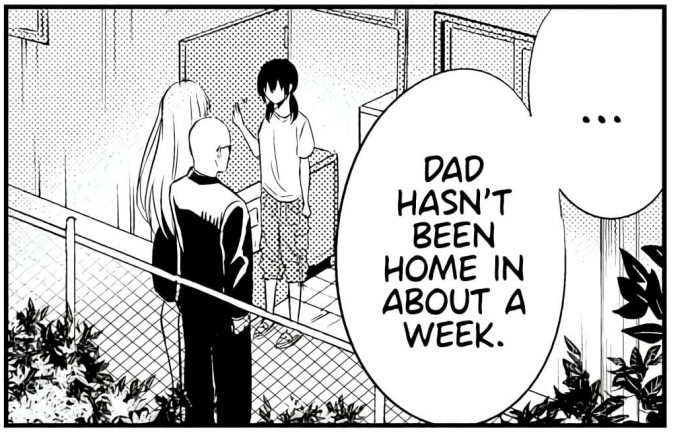
MEOW

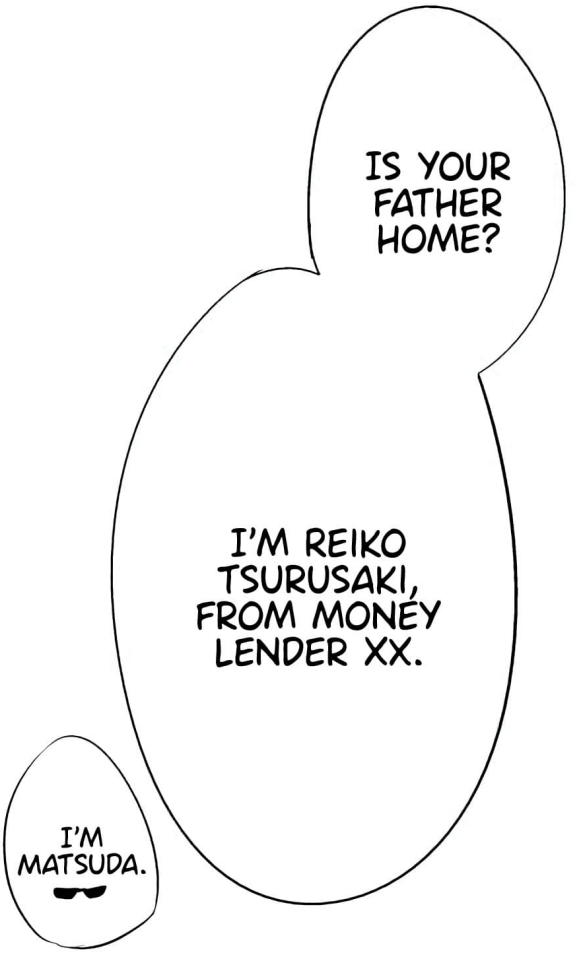


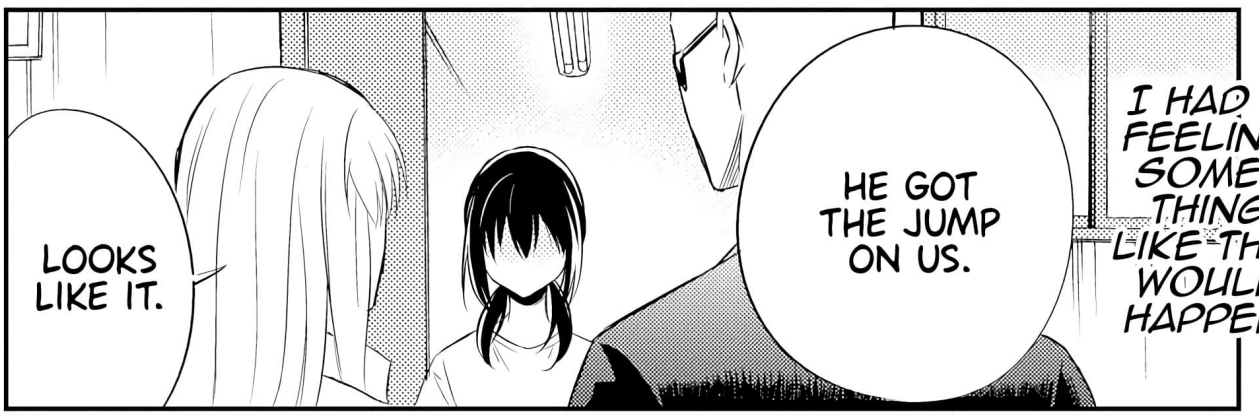


YEAH, BUT...
WHO ARE YOU...?
YOU'RE... TSUKASA TOHYAMA, RIGHT?
HELLO, NICE TO MEET YOU.

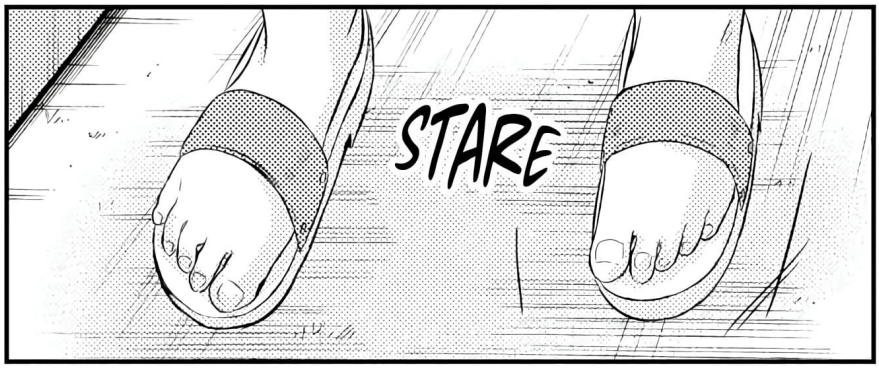
A DEBT COLLECTOR?

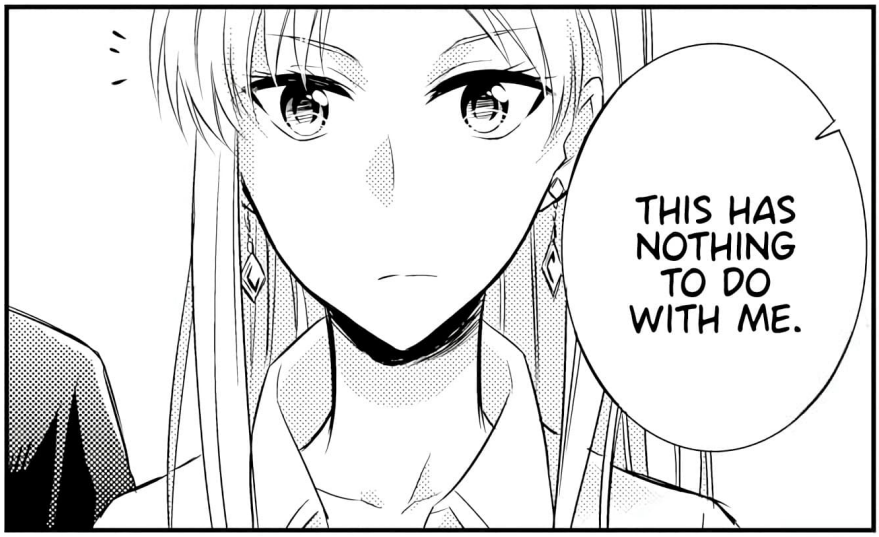

...
DAD HASN'T BEEN HOME IN ABOUT A WEEK.


IS YOUR FATHER HOME?
I'M REIKO TSURUSAKI, FROM MONEY LENDER XX.
I'M MATSUDA.


LOOKS LIKE IT.
HE GOT THE JUMP ON US.
I HAD A FEELING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

IN REALITY ...
WELL THEN, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE...





JAPAN STANDARD x JUNE COMICS

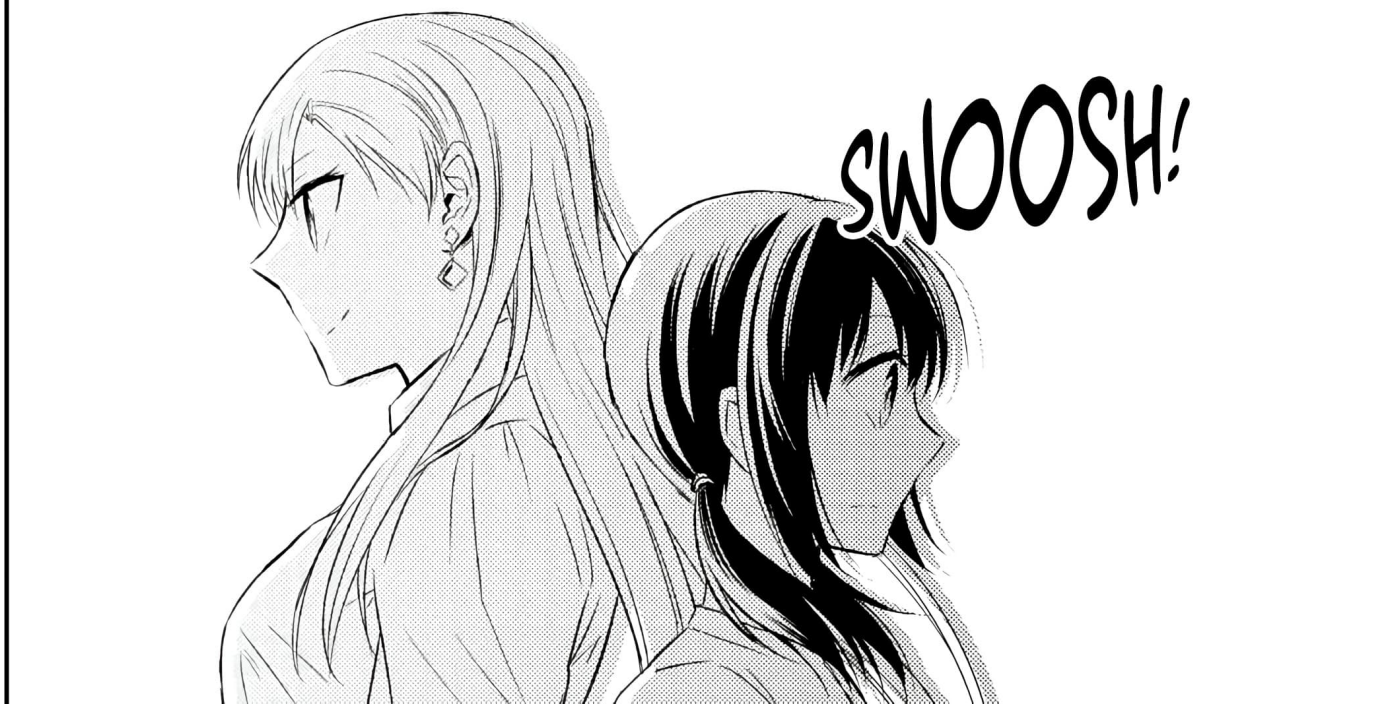
THIS IS MY DAD'S DEBT, ISN'T IT?
I'M SURE IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY IT BACK.
OH MY, YOU'RE TAKING ALL THIS IN STRIDE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK THAT'LL WORK FOR US?
BAM
STARTLE
MATSUDA, STOP.

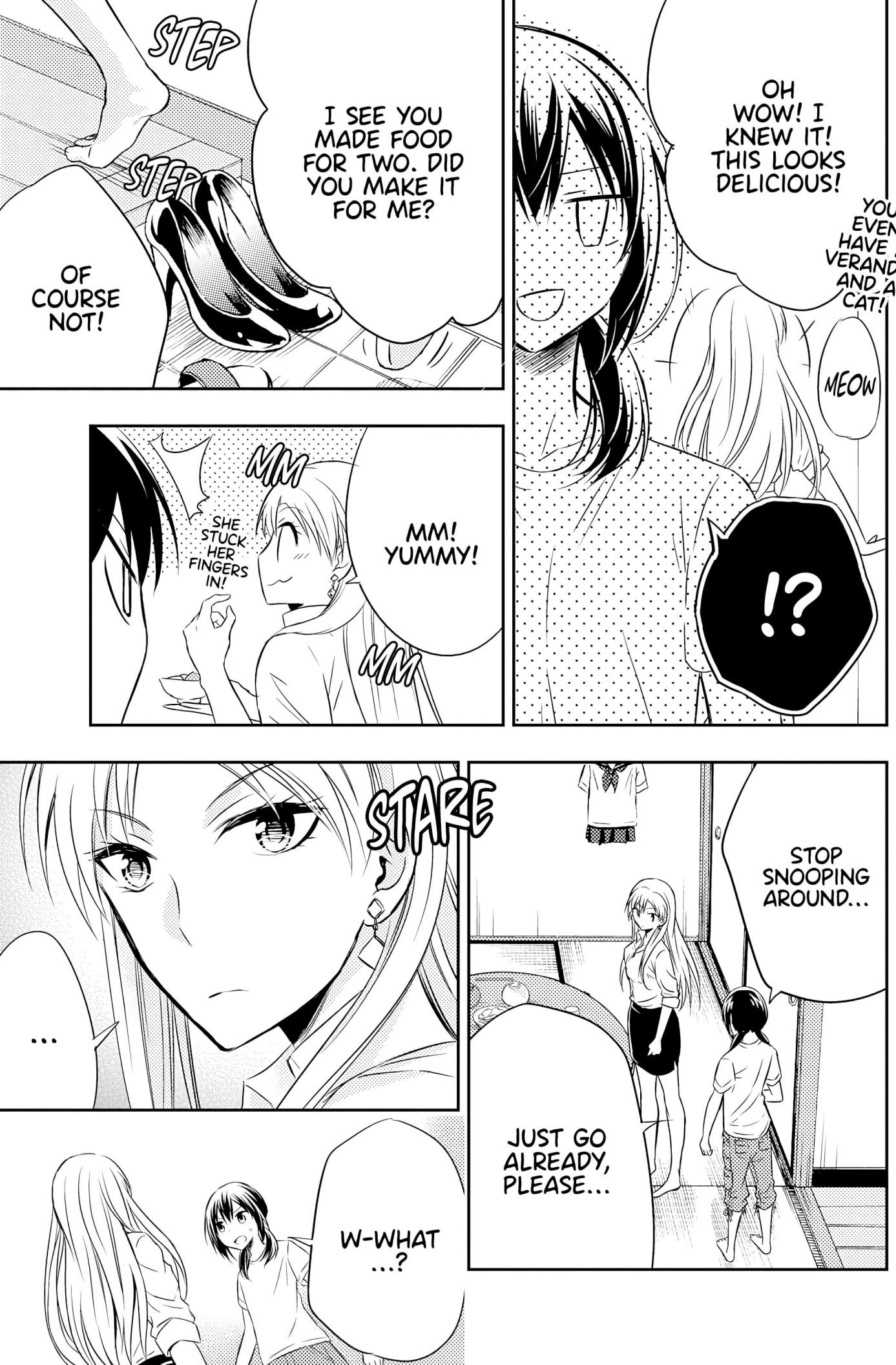
JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME, YOU HEAD BACK FIRST.
POINT
WHAT? S-SURE...

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU TO STOP ACTING LIKE A WILD ANIMAL?
...
I...I'M SORRY.

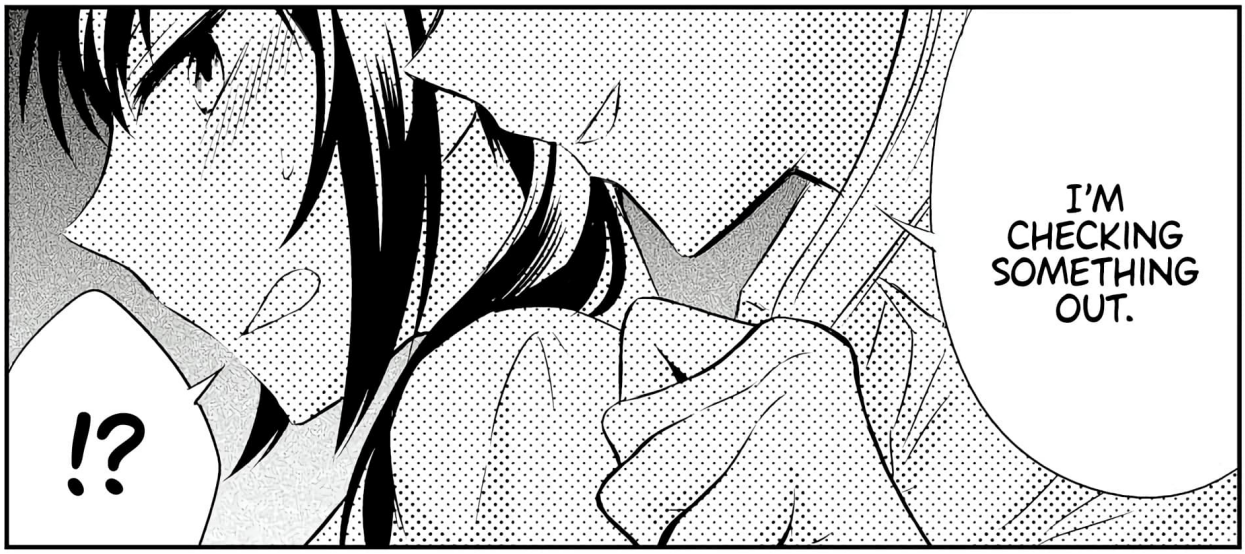
TO BE HONEST, I WAS CURIOUS EARLIER ...
?

GLANCE
NOW...


SWOOSH!


STEP
STEP
I SEE YOU MADE FOOD FOR TWO. DID YOU MAKE IT FOR ME?
OF COURSE NOT!
OH WOW! I KNEW IT! THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!
YOU EVEN HAVE A VERANDA, AND A CAT!
MEOW
!?
MM
SHE STUCK HER FINGERS IN!
MM! YUMMY!
MM
STARE
...
STOP SNOOPING AROUND...
JUST GO ALREADY, PLEASE...
W-WHAT ...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
VERY WELL.


I'M CHECKING SOMETHING OUT.
!?

I HAVE TO CONFIRM SOME-THING.
GRAB
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF YOU HAD MORE MEAT ON YOU, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A NICE FIGURE.
GRAB
YES, WE CAN REALLY MAKE MONEY OFF OF THIS.
GYAAA!
S-STOP!
NO WAY!
THIS WOMAN ...
SHAKE
SHAKE
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT...
SHE'S REALLY STRONG.
DING! DONG!
I CAN'T BREAK FREE...!
SHOOT. SAVED BY THE BELL.
HUH?

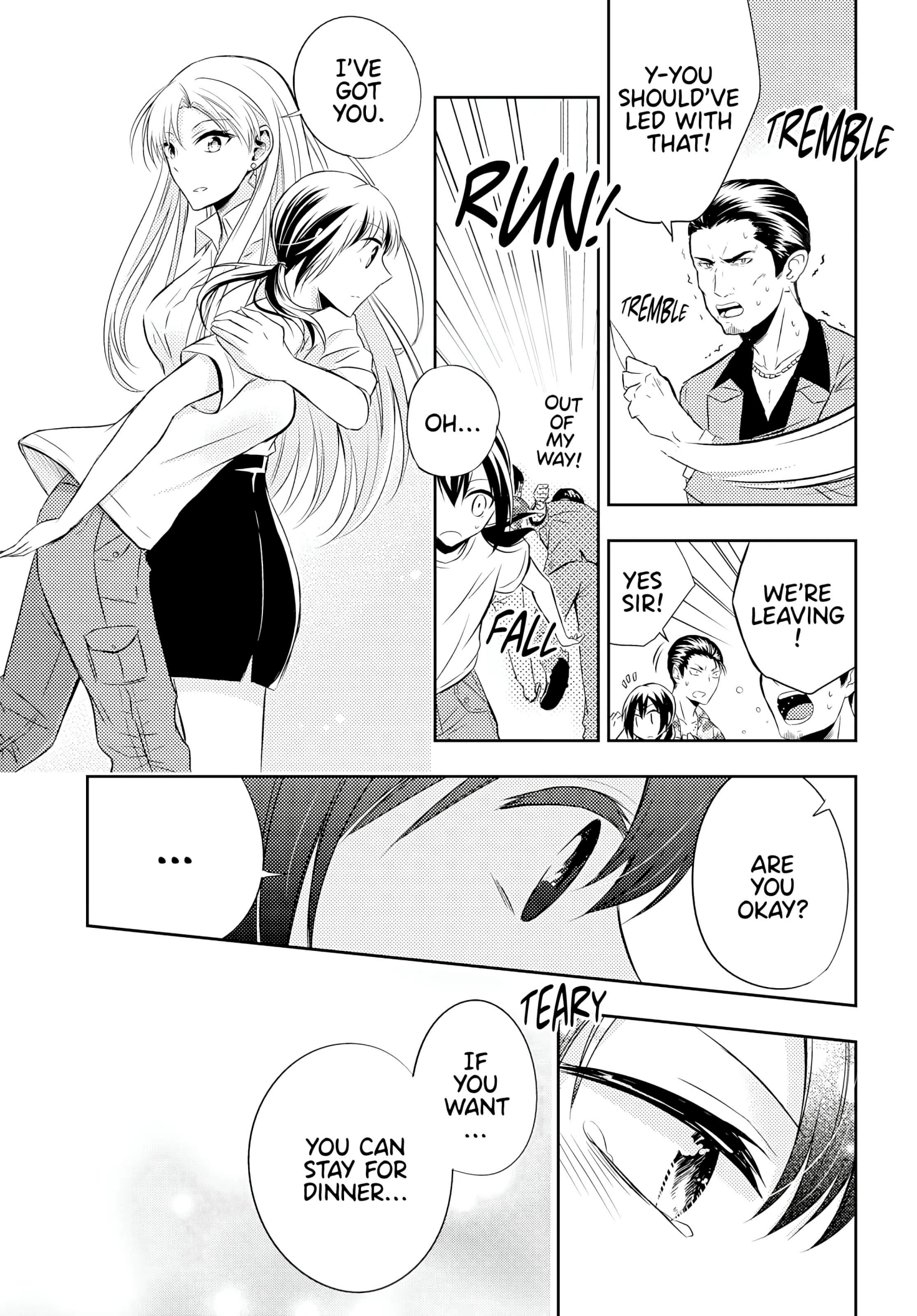
STEP
STEP
I'M SAVED!
DING! DONG!
DING! DONG!
I... I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
TCH
HOW NOISY.
OPEN
YES?
LOTS OF VISITORS TODAY...
ARE YOU TOHYAMA'S DAUGHTER?
SLAM
OOPS.

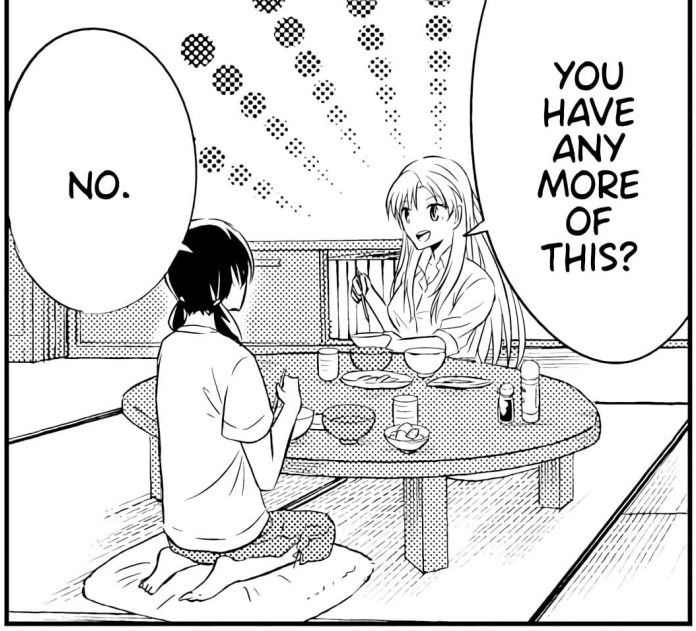
HONESTLY
...
TODAY HAS BEEN AN AWFUL DAY.
BASED ON THAT REACTION, I TAKE IT YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
WE WANT THE SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS YOUR FATHER BORROWED FROM US.
...I CAN'T RETURN YOU THE MONEY.
PLEASE LEAVE, I'M CALLING THE POLICE.
AHAHA! SUCH A BRAVE YOUNG GIRL.
IN THAT CASE ...
BEFORE YOU CALL THEM...

GRAB!
REACH
AHH!
WE'LL BRING YOU WITH US AND MAKE YOU PAY WITH YOUR BODY!
MY VOICE WON'T COME OUT!
...!
LET'S GO.
GOT IT.
NO! MOM!
OPEN
SOME-BODY!
HEY.

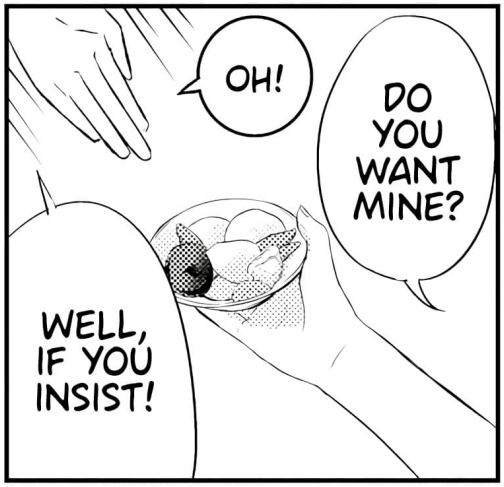
...!
THAT GIRL ALSO OWES ME MONEY...
SO, I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE WITH HER.
AND YOU ARE?
GRAB
WE CAN CHARGE A LOT MORE FOR YOUR BODY.
YOU ALSO WANT TO SELL YOURSELF?
...
I MUST DECLINE YOUR OFFER, AS I HATE THE WILD ANIMAL TYPES.

THROW
GRAB
WHO IS THIS WOMAN ?
TREMBLE
FWIP
AHH!
!?
DO YOU ACCEPT CHECKS?

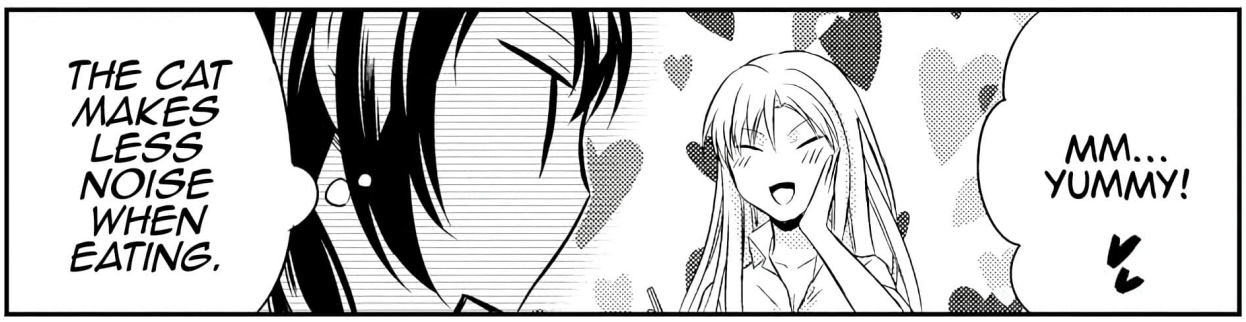

I'VE GOT YOU.
RUN!
OH...
OUT OF MY WAY!
FALL
Y-YOU SHOULD'VE LED WITH THAT!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
YES SIR!
WE'RE LEAVING!
...
ARE YOU OKAY?
TEARY
IF YOU WANT ...
YOU CAN STAY FOR DINNER...


YOU HAVE ANY MORE OF THIS?
NO.

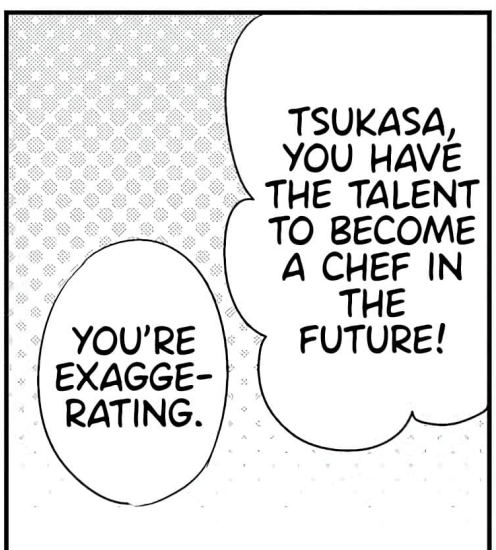
SHINE
MM... DELICIOUS!


OH!
DO YOU WANT MINE?
WELL, IF YOU INSIST!

WHAT? SUCH A SHAME!

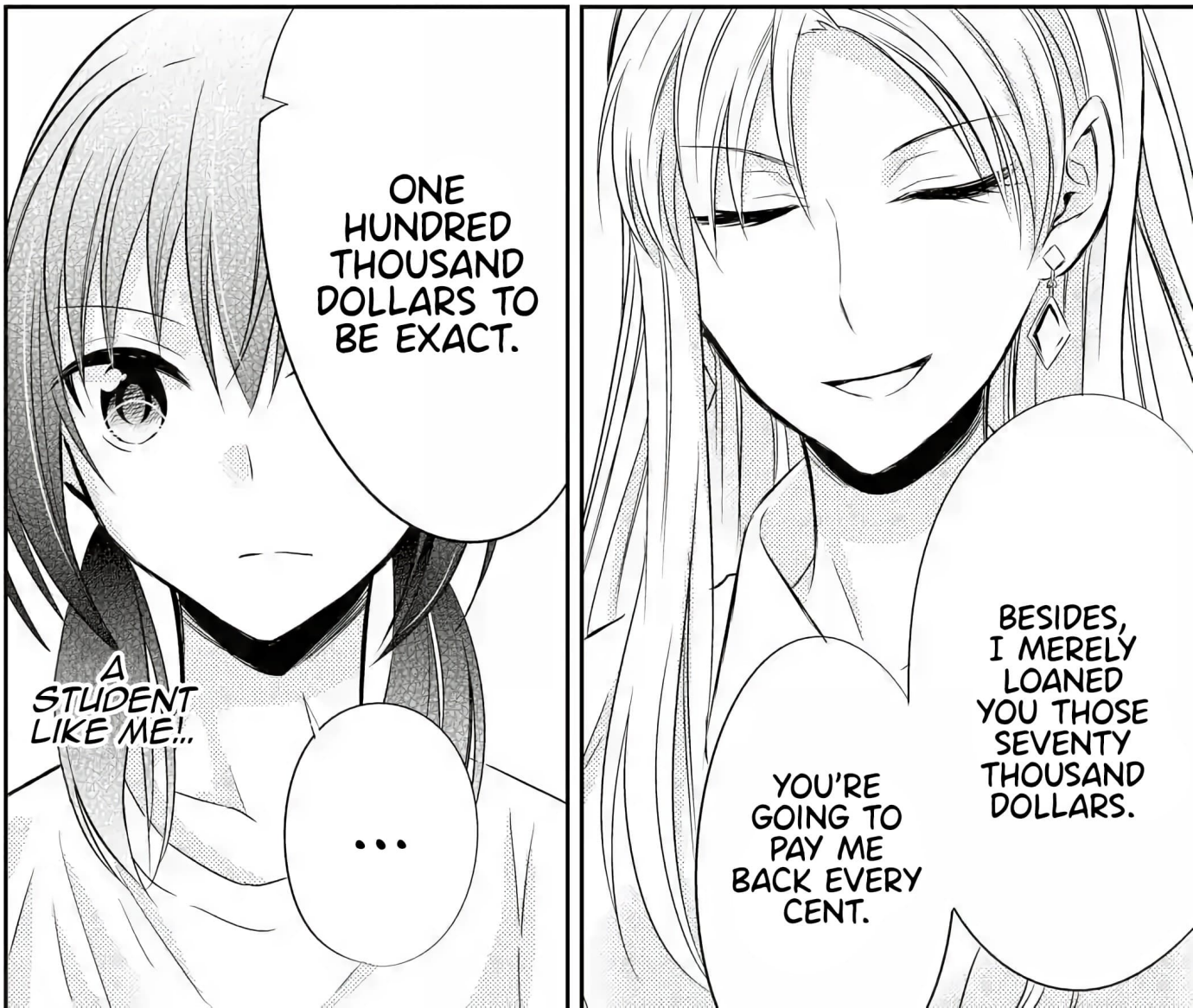

THE CAT MAKES LESS NOISE WHEN EATING.
MM... YUMMY!

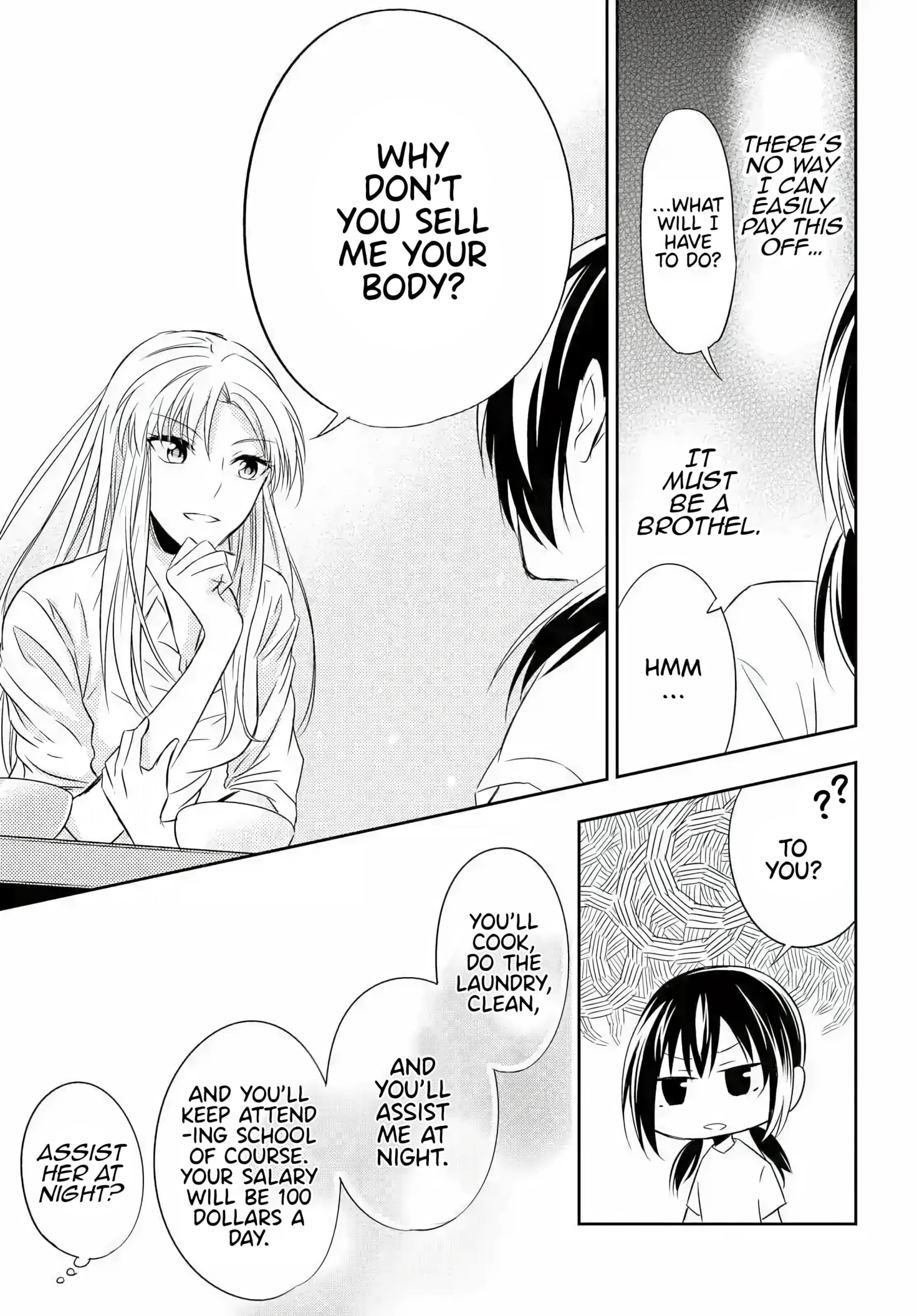
WHAT A WEIRD SITUATION, GIVEN SHE'S A DEBT COLLECTOR ...


TSUKASA, YOU HAVE THE TALENT TO BECOME A CHEF IN THE FUTURE!
YOU'RE EXAGGE-RATING.

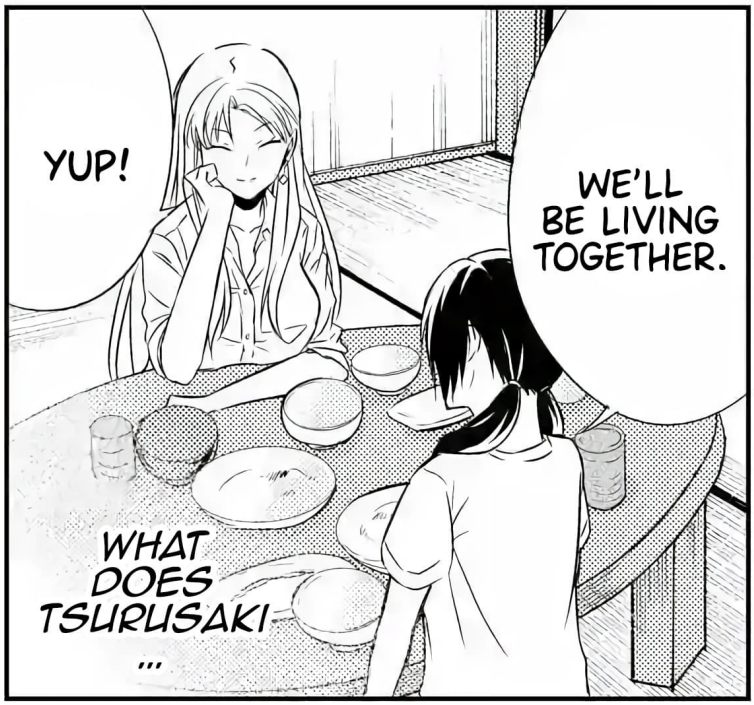
SMILE
...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE DINNER WAS THIS LIVELY...
LET ALONE HAVE SOMEONE SMILE FROM MY COOKING.
...

LISTEN... THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME BACK THERE.
...
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME FOR THAT.
IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
NO NEED TO DENY IT.
NO—I WASN'T!
OH...SO YOU ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING THAT EXPRESSION AS WELL.

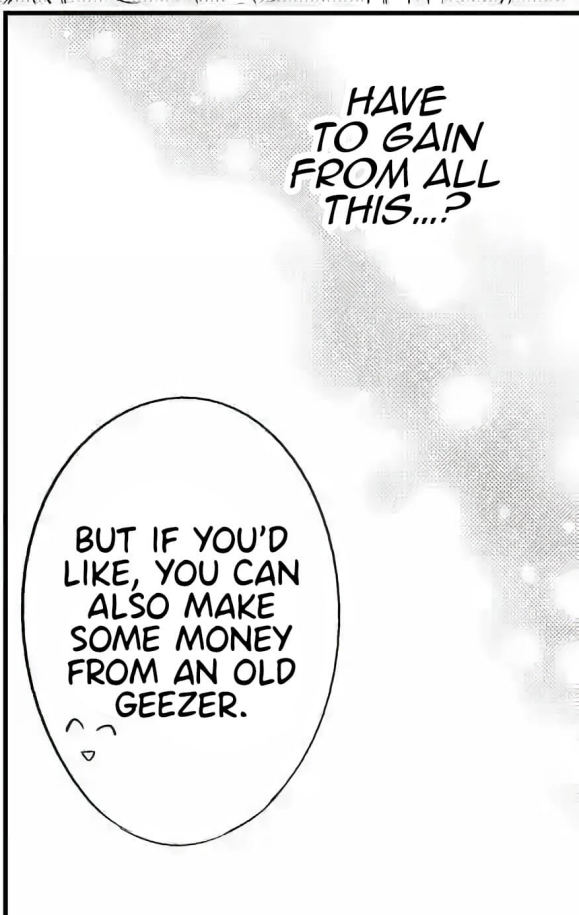

A STUDENT LIKE ME!..
...
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE EXACT.
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME BACK EVERY CENT.
BESIDES, I MERELY LOANED YOU THOSE SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EASILY PAY THIS OFF...
...WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?
IT MUST BE A BROTHEL.
HMM ...
WHY DON'T YOU SELL ME YOUR BODY?
??
TO YOU?
YOU'LL COOK, DO THE LAUNDRY, CLEAN,
AND YOU'LL ASSIST ME AT NIGHT.
AND YOU'LL KEEP ATTEND-ING SCHOOL OF COURSE. YOUR SALARY WILL BE 100 DOLLARS A DAY.
ASSIST HER AT NIGHT?

...
IN OTHER WORDS ...


WE'LL BE LIVING TOGETHER.
YUP!
WHAT DOES TSURUSAKI ...

SMILE
NOT TOO BAD, RIGHT?

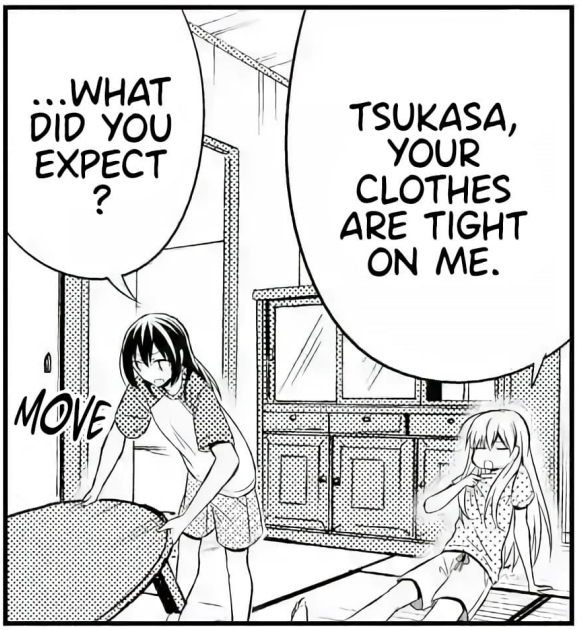

HAVE TO GAIN FROM ALL THIS...?
BUT IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN ALSO MAKE SOME MONEY FROM AN OLD GEEZER.
^ ^

HAHA!

I KNOW WE'LL GET ALONG JUST FINE, TSUKASA.

STRETCH
STRETCH
OH WELL, AT LEAST THIS BEATS BEING IN A BROTHEL... I THINK.

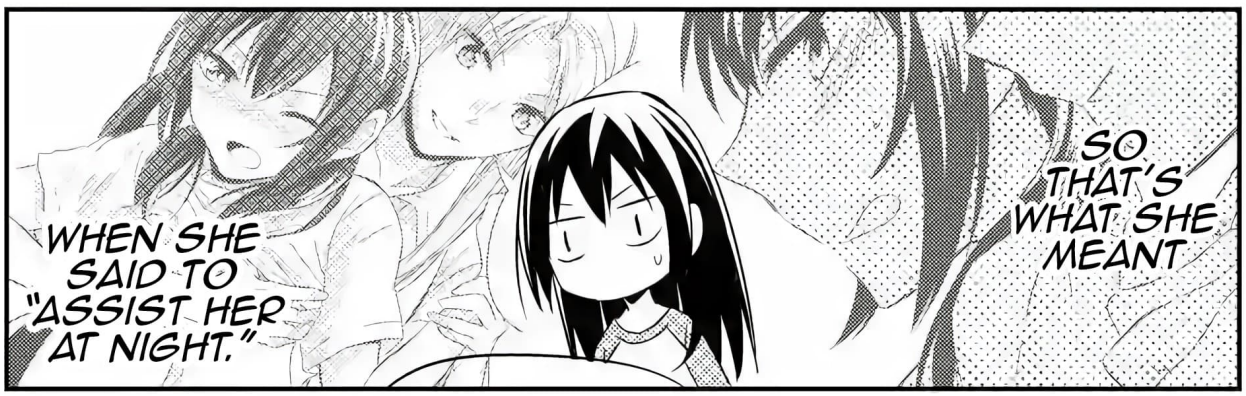
REIKO, OUT OF THE WAY PLEASE. I'M TAKING OUT YOUR FUTON.
HEY, CAN YOU START CALLING ME REIKO?


...WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ?
TSUKASA, YOUR CLOTHES ARE TIGHT ON ME.
MOVE

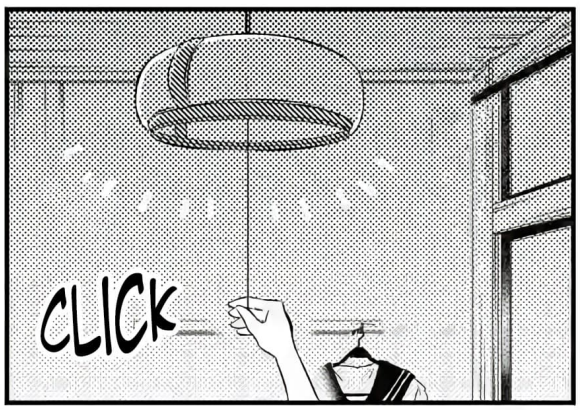
OH-

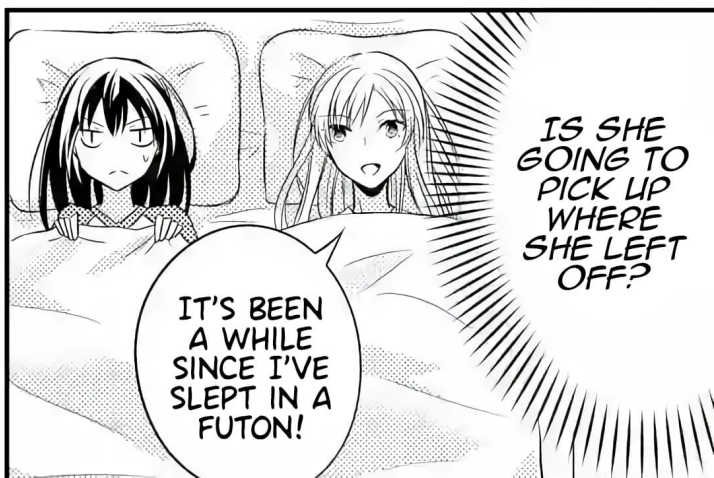
TSURUSAKI, YOU SAY THE MOST ABSURD THINGS.

THERE'S NO NEED. WE'LL ONLY NEED ONE FUTON SINCE WE'LL BE SLEEPING TOGETHER.
!

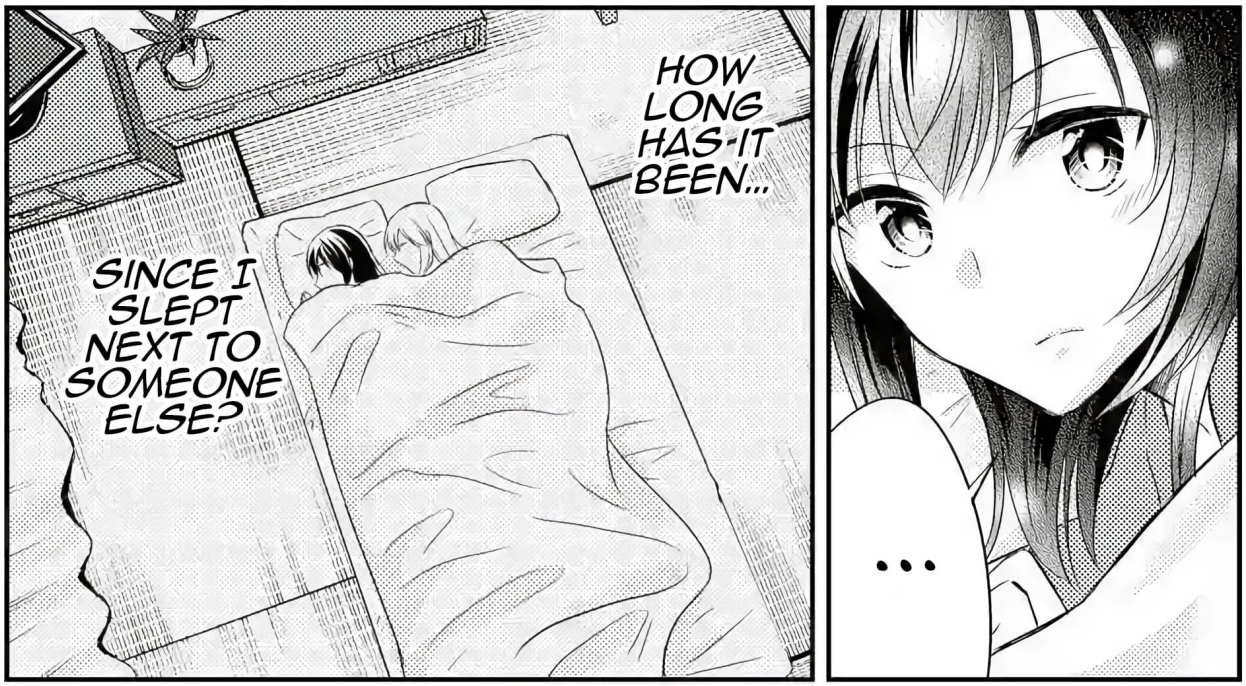

WHEN SHE SAID TO "ASSIST HER AT NIGHT."
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT

NO... THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL DO THAT. BESIDES, WE'RE BOTH GIRLS.


CLICK


IS SHE GOING TO PICK UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SLEPT IN A FUTON!

MOVE
EMBRACE
I KNEW IT....!
NO! I DON'T WANT...!
MOVE
REIKO ...



WE'VE ONLY MET TODAY...

BUT SHE MAKES ME FEEL AT EASE.